



ST MARTINS WORLE  
900 YEARS  
1125-2025

# The Parish of Worle: St Martin Annual Report 2025

Worle Chorale  
WORLE CHORALE  
PRESENTS  
A choral concert to mark the Festival of Angels  
**Music Among  
900 Angels**  
Accompanied by Richard Lennox  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 3p  
Followed by refreshments  
St Martin's Church, Worle, BS  
Entrance - donations welcomed towards ch  
le.org.uk stma

ST MARTINS WORLE  
900 YEARS  
1125-2025  
Congratulations

Everyone is Invited  Everyone is Welcome  
*Journeying together in the love of Jesus*

## Incumbents Report for 2025

My dear friends in Christ,

Our Epistle reading this morning was from St Peter's first letter. This is a circular letter written to various churches and Christians to encourage them in their faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Peter urges them to keep strong. The consequences of becoming a Christian in Peter's lifetime were very serious. It often led to people being ostracised, mocked, shunned from families and even in many circumstances led to their death. Peter was a realist. His letter is not a philosophical debate on the nature of suffering but rather is a practical handbook of what is likely to happen to followers and what to do to protect yourself and give a guide as to how to cope.

The letter is all about hope. As Christians we are to remember that if we have to go through severe trials, then so did Jesus whose suffering ultimately opened the way to heaven for us all. Peter insists that we are protected by God's power through our faith until salvation is fully revealed. He draws an analogy with gold being made purer by burning away the impurities, so suffering can *refine* our faith.

We are lucky living in Worle in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, because we will probably never have to face the ordeals that the first readers of this letter had to face.

This church building, that in 2025 we celebrated its foundation 900 years ago, has itself stood through many times of trial, of war of changing denomination: of old ways being discarded only to find after a few years that the new theologies were now being put to the sword and a too-ing and fro-ing from Catholic to Protestant to Catholic to a lasting Protestant settlement known as Anglicanism under Elizabeth I in 1559.

During this time people would constantly have had their worries and concerns about what would happen next, but hope kept them going and hope kept them faithful. It was through their faith and hope that kept this place going.

This is where we come in, this is our part in the journey of witness of faith at St Martin's Church. We are part of the tapestry that makes up the picture for this place of faith, but we are not the whole tapestry.

Today is when we have our Annual Meeting. It gives us a chance to look back and reflect on the last year and the work and witness of the Parish. 2025 has been a special year for us, a year of celebration when we have given thanks for 900 years of worship and witness in this place (give or take a few silent periods).

As we look back on the last year - and look through the Annual Report -we do so reflect on our objectives for 2025 that we aspired to be:

- 1 A Church Community offering the spirit of invitation and welcome to bring the love of Jesus into people's lives.
- 2 To highlight the role of the building as being at the centre of community for 900 years
- 3 To involve various community organisations, schools and businesses to be part of the celebrations

As part of offering this witness and doing this work there are many people who have contributed to making the last year the success it was in so many ways.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and those who assist the Treasurer with the finances of the church – such as bookkeeping and sorting out Gift Aid - all the officers of the church and those who serve on the PCC and the various sub-committees and synods.

Thank you too to my Ministry Colleagues who provide such wonderful service and services to the church and support to me.

Thank you to everyone who opens the church and prepares for the services and events, those who undertake duties of Communion Assistant, those who read and those who serve as vergers particularly in the occasional offices. Also those who prepare and operate the slides and the sound system in the services and who prepare the weekly newsletters and information leaflets.

Thanks to our wonderful musicians in the choir and on the organ and keyboard and the bell ringers for their weekly commitment and skills they bring to worship; to those who provide refreshments after services, to those who set up and run our various social events particularly during our 900<sup>th</sup> year.

Thank you to those who come to the working parties to tidy up and do jobs on the church and in the grounds and help to keep the church and its surroundings look so special. To those who do the flowers and the laundry of the church and of course to the wonderful team who do the cleaning in the church.

A particular note of thanks too, to all those who give to the church financially. We could not operate in the way we do without your financial commitment. I would just like to encourage everyone to be part of a regular stewardship system either through the envelope scheme or direct debits and to sign up for Gift Aid where appropriate.

I make it as bit of an unofficial rule that I do not mention people by name in this report. Whenever one does this, you run the risk of upsetting people by

leaving others out, but there are two people who we sadly lost this year who were the epitome of dutiful service. Firstly, I would like to remember Michael Butt. Michael was the personification of a hard worker 'behind the scenes'. I would also like to remember Ray Jones our former ringing master. You may not have known Ray – but you would have heard the fruits of his ministry on so many occasions ringing out across the parish calling people to church, announcing – we are here.

As we look back on 2025, let us also be mindful of the words of St Peter - that our faithful ministry doesn't just end now, rather we are to be part of a future, a community, working together to make St Martin's a place that will go on for another 900 years and beyond that.

In 2026 we shall make prayer and the study of the Bible at the centre of what we do. It is these activities that are the bedrock of who we are. Let us look back at the last year reflecting on all the good things that have passed, let us be active in the present with the hope in our hearts and lives with Christ as described by St Peter in his letter and let us look forward knowing that we are part of something – so much bigger than us – and something, someone that is eternal – Jesus Christ.

Amen

## **900<sup>th</sup> Celebration 2025**



To celebrate 900 years of worship at St Martin's Church it was decided that we would arrange a special event for every month of the year, the objectives being:

- 1 Through the spirit of invitation and welcome to bring the love of Jesus into people's lives.
- 2 To highlight the role of the building as being at the centre of community for 900 years
- 3 To involve various community organisations, schools and businesses to be part of the celebrations

This was achieved through a variety of events that were developed throughout the year, bringing the church and the local community together.

The year started in January with an exhibition of Baptisms in the church. Baptism records and photographs were displayed alongside baptism robes that had been loaned for the event. In February we had a special service of light for Candlemas during which everyone was given a celebratory 900<sup>th</sup> year candle to light again at home.

In March we had our annual Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive and Pancakes evening which was very popular again. At the end of the month musicians from the Bristol Ensemble performed a special concert for us, playing music from each century from 1125 to present time. This was very well received, drawing an audience from far and wide to listen to this acclaimed group.

April was filled with Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services. In May we celebrated the Gift of Marriage in the church with a flower festival. The church was decorated with flower arrangements depicting history over 900 years, and there were many photographs of weddings in the church throughout the years along with marriage registers. The festival concluded with a special service with many favourite wedding hymns.

In June we celebrated Pentecost and the Birthday of the Church with a Sunday afternoon Birthday Party, including Pimm's, strawberries and cream, scones, jam and cream, tea and a special birthday cake. Everyone left with a 900<sup>th</sup> year party bag with goodies! At the end of the month our organist, Richard Lennox, performed a midsummer concert, 'Echos through Time', featuring music on organ and piano through 900years. This was followed by the traditional tea and cake that the church is gaining quite a reputation for!

In August the church hosted an art exhibition by local artists. This was a popular event and there is interest in repeating it in the summer of 2026

To celebrate St Michael and All Angels Day in September the local community and schools worked together to make over 900 cardboard angels to adorn the church for a Festival of Angels. School children visited to 'spot' their angels within the displays, and Worle Chorale performed a special concert amongst the angels to conclude the festival.

For Harvest in October we had a Harvest Morning Praise service during which food was brought to church to be donated to Weston Food Bank. This was followed by Bring and Share Community Lunch in The Village School Hall.

In November we always celebrate St Martins Day with the church fayre, and this year was no exception, with stalls, tombola, guess the weight of the cake, just to name a few of the activities to be enjoyed, along with refreshments. This coincides with Remembrance weekend and Worle Windband performed a special festival of Remembrance concert on the Sunday afternoon

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree festival took place at the beginning of December with any proceeds being divided equally between Weston Hospicecare and the church. 30 decorated trees lit up the church for the weekend and the church was full of activity, light and music. The Festival opened with a wonderful peal of bells from the bell ringers on the Friday before the opening concert, where we enjoyed performances from Toot Suite Recorder Group and the church choir. On the Saturday entertainment was provided throughout the day with the Clangers bell plate ringers in the morning and Worle Village School in the afternoon following which we had our Christingle service. On Sunday morning we were joined by the Archdeacon of Bath at our 10am service with a wonderful Christmas Concert by Worle Chorale in the afternoon before concluding the weekend with an Advent service with carols. The trees remained in church until the end of the Christmas season.

The year was about celebration rather than raising amounts of money, but we did commission some special kneelers to commemorate the year and donations for these have been received in memory of loved ones.

Our thanks go to Fraser Proctor for designing the logo for the year which has been used on all our advertising, and all those who have helped in so many ways to make the year so special

Rev Jon Ormrod and Jill Preddy

## **Safeguarding report**

The Safeguarding Team comprises Jill Preddy, Yvonne Criddle, Lesley Faulkner and Rosie Davies. It has met 4 times during 2025 and reported regularly to the PCC.

The Safeguarding policy is displayed in the church porch together with a poster showing contact details for St Martin's church and for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Safeguarding training was delivered in church in October for PCC members and any other church members. All PCC members have undertaken basic training and the majority have undertaken foundation training. At the November PCC meeting a short scenario was discussed to further embed our learning and this will be included in other PCC meetings.

Safeguarding was highlighted on National Safeguarding Sunday on 16/11/2025

Please contact the team if you have any safeguarding concerns or you would like to chat, and do remember that no concern is too small for us to listen to.

Tel: 07443 303712

Email: [safeguardingstmartinsworle@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingstmartinsworle@gmail.com)

The Safeguarding Team

### **Ministry Team and Home Groups Report**

The Ministry team has met together regularly for mutual support and encouragement; to plan and review the worship and courses we offer for the St Martin's community.

We have held Tuesday courses on the following themes

Healing touch of God

Gifts of the Spirit

Synoptic Gospels

Christianity Explored

Apostles and Disciples

Historic background of the Scriptures

Liturgical Seasons

Fruits of the Spirit

Advent course What are you waiting for?

Welcoming and adapting to the needs of our wider community and our regular worshippers (many of whom are elderly)

We have also prioritised responding sensitively to pastoral situations both individually within our congregation and also in the community, (for instance opening the church and being available particularly at times of bereavement).

We are also always sensitive to our pattern of service, particularly with respect to people's changing needs. (The availability of parking, and the effect of long winter evenings are becoming ever more relevant to our faithful congregation).

Rev Gilly Bunce

## **Foundation Governor Links to Local Schools**

St Martin's and Worle Village Schools are part of the Kaleidoscope Multi Academy Trust (MAT). As a Church school MAT, Rev Jon sits on the Church schools committee, providing spiritual guidance and other support across all the MAT schools. Both St Martin's and Worle Village schools share an Executive Head Teacher (Mrs Sue Elliott) and as a result the staff and pupils are being brought closer together and are encouraged to make full use of St Martin's Church building for acts of worship and to participate in Church events, for example the Christmas Tree Festival and services celebrating Easter and harvest.

The joint "Local Governing Board" across both St Martin's and Worle Village primary schools continues to work well with us meeting each term at alternate venues. Mark Preddy (a member of PCC) is one of the Co-Chair of Governors, and plays an active role, together with Rev Jon and Mrs Elliott in the management of both schools. Whilst St Martin's is the official "Church School" we maintain a close link with both in terms of spiritual and community matters. During 2025 we have held successful "Messy Church" events at St Martin's School, on a termly basis, these have been enthusiastically received by both pupils and staff. A separate report for Messy Church is within this annual report.

Like many schools there are significant challenges with finance and recruiting support staff at both our link schools. Despite these, the Kaleidoscope Multi Academy Trust (KMAT) school leadership team and governors are fully committed to making our schools great places of learning and a fun place to be for our pupils. I was delighted to visit school for several performances across a number of year groups and we can be very proud of the very high standard achieved by the pupils, teachers and their supporters.

Mark Preddy



## **Church involvement with St Martin's, Worle Village and Mendip Green Primary Schools**

As Vicar of St Martin's Church, I serve as Governor for both St Martin's Church of England Primary School, and Worle Village Primary School, Mark has written about the work of Governor and governance in the local schools. In addition to this role, I am also involved with serving the school communities in the parish by taking school assemblies on a regular basis and also assisting the schools with visits to the church on a regular basis. This can be for worship particularly at Christmas, Easter and Harvest, but it can also be to cover certain items of the curriculum, such as talking to the children about the sacraments of Communion and Baptism, or a Question and Answer Session on "What does a vicar do?". These are always really rewarding sessions, with the children being very engaged and asking very good questions.

Every year St Martin's School come on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and hear about the story of St Martin, cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar.

The close links between the church and the schools continued to be developed and enhanced by the hard work of volunteers from the church and also with the encouragement and support of the schools as well. This has been a very important part of the mission and outreach for St Martin's Church and building positive links with the children and families in the community.



Rev Jon Ormrod

### **Messy Church at St Martins School**

Throughout 2025 we have continued to do Messy Church at St Martin's School as an after school activity usually approximately once every half term.

The sessions usually start with an activity that all the children can join in with and work together on. This year we have done junk modelling on a couple of occasions and have made boats – when our theme was the stilling of the storm - and angels - when we were thinking of angels for the Angel Festival at Church.





There then follows about 45mins of craft activities which usually includes a “food activity” such as decorating biscuits.

Themes this year have included:

Moses

The Good Samaritan

Fruits of the Spirit

Angels

Jesus stilling the storm

Jesse Tree with symbols from the Old and New Testament.

The Jesse Tree activity involved building a mobile and then hanging symbols from the Bible on it, such as the serpent, a scroll to represent the Law of Moses, the stars in the sky for Abraham’s descendants, crown for King David, and the Holy Family going to Bethlehem.



Following the craft activities, we have a time of teaching and reflecting on the theme for the day, following which the children (and Vicar Jon!) have tea which frequently consists of hot dogs followed by ice cream (and sprinkles!).

We are also blessed with a core of 12 to 16 children who attend these sessions. Some of whom come from the schools After School Club.

We are also blessed with a team of volunteers who prepare the activities and help the children with them during the sessions. If you would like to be involved with Messy Church in the future, then do have a word with Jon.

Rev Jon Ormrod

## **Men's Fellowship**

The men of the Parish meet as a group at 7.30pm usually on the third Thursday of the month at the Lamb Inn in Worle High Street. Activities have included bowling, skittles, quiz and barbecues and a race night. It was good to welcome the Ladies' Fellowship for a skittle match which included sausage and chips. We hope this will be an annual event.

It is always good to welcome our neighbours as well as new friends.

Paul Elliott

## **Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship was set up by Rachel Fletcher and Georgia Banks this year, as a need was identified to provide more support and contact between ladies other than the normal church timetabled events. It was agreed to start with a monthly breakfast meet up on the 2nd Saturday of every month and began on the 9th of August in the church. This went well and since then we have had a trip out to Carriages in Hewish, plus meets in church involving story and poetry reading. The women's fellowship supported St Martin's Church fayre by running 2 stalls and had a Christmas meet with partners and friends. As well as a skittles night out challenging the men's fellowship. The feedback has been good with women saying that they are getting to know others that they didn't before. On average attendance at events has been around 20 ladies. In 2026 we are continuing with the monthly breakfast slot, alternating between in church and outings. We would also like to do some evening events and strengthen the fellowship.

Rachel Fletcher

## **Fabric Committee Report**

The Fabric Committee is a subgroup of the PCC. It is made up of a chairman, secretary and six members from the church congregation. They bring with them many different skills, not only for the maintenance work, but their concern for the building.

During the year they have been responsible for all the tasks with the running of the church which include the servicing of the gas boiler, electrical requirements and servicing of the organ etc.

During the year, after receiving the Quinquennial Report, it is good the committee members were able to work through the areas that were identified as self-help jobs which also included some work in the graveyard which involved maintenance of the shed including replacing one side and painting.

We were able to commission our contractors, Ellis and Co, to go through and achieve all of the work that needed our attention, so we face the New Year with optimism.

Paul Elliott

## **Community Saturday Film Nights**

These take place in St Martin's Church and are open to everyone. Showings are free – with donations gratefully received towards snacks and the upkeep of the church facilities. Doors open at 5.15pm for a 5.45pm showing.

We are fortunate to have a small band of friends who help to serve the refreshment and show the film.

Paul Elliott

## **St Martin's Church Finance Team**

There are a number of people involved, each playing a vital role in ensuring our finances run smoothly.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Treasurer</b>                       | Mark Preddy   |
| <b>Fees</b>                            | Mark Preddy   |
| <b>Booking Keeping</b>                 | Kewstoke Financial Services<br>(John Leddy)                           |
| <b>Payroll</b>                         | JD Accounting (Janet Drissell)  |
| <b>Support and advice to Treasurer</b> | John Bangham  |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>                        | Diane Swatton   |
| <b>Cash counting &amp; Banking</b>     | Jill and Mark Preddy, Val and Neil Adams, Rosie Davies, John Bangham. |

Planned giving forms an important part of our total income, there are two principal schemes.

- Weekly Blue envelopes.
- Monthly Standing Order paid through your bank.

At the end of 2025 we had a total of 51 members (or couples) who had committed to planned giving, which is slightly down from 2024. Planned giving, combined with Gift Aid recovery, is a very important part of our ministry and helps us maintain control of our budget which is tight in these challenging times.

The Gift Aid Scheme is administered by Diane, and for members who pay tax, enables us to reclaim 25% more from the UK.GOV, this is a valuable source of income for the Church.

We continue to accept payments by card using our SUMUP machine which you will normally find on the Donation table at the back of the Church.

We have now completed our first year of the new methodology for calculating Parish Share to better distribute costs to Parish / Benefices based on the costs of ministry and Diocesan support. This has led to a significant increase for St Martin's; however, I am pleased to report that we paid our 2025 share in full. We will continue to rise in the following three years to meet full cost of ministry. Our PCC has again committed to paying our 2026 Parish Share in full.

The church office continues to be maintained by a combination of the ministry team and volunteers, with Mark Preddy taking responsibility for managing Fees, our Church website and keeping the IT equipment updated. This has enabled us to manage the Parish Share costs, with our only personnel costs being for our organist.

I would like to thank the team of supporters as mentioned above.

Mark Preddy - Treasurer

## **Community Cake and Coffee Mornings**

Every Thursday morning at 10.45am, after the morning Communion Service, we have our community coffee morning in church which is open to all people to meet and share some refreshments. This proves a good opportunity to know about events taking place in church and for them to be able to ask questions if they wish. It is good that many who attend the service beforehand remain for coffee and can greet people who have just arrived for refreshments.

Paul Elliott

## **Christmas Tree Festival 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree festival was held on the first weekend in December. This was supported again by local organisations and businesses, the local primary schools and groups and individuals from the church itself, and a total of 30 trees provided decoration, colour and lights throughout the weekend and continued through the rest of the Christmas season. There was no cost to enter a tree and no entrance fee for any of the weekend events, but donations were welcomed to be split equally between Weston Hospicecare and St Martin's Church.

The weekend started with an opening evening of carols and readings, including performances by Toot Suite recorder group and a short presentation by representatives from Weston Hospicecare about their valuable work. On the Saturday morning the Clangers performed, and we welcomed Worle Village School Choir performance in the afternoon. Sunday concluded with a concert by Worle Chorale in the afternoon.

Besides these events, there was a Christingle Service on the Saturday afternoon; 8am and 10am Communion Services on the Sunday with the Archdeacon of Bath presiding at the 10am Service and an Evening Advent Service on the Sunday at 5pm.

This year our knitted tree was a giant Santa hat (!) and the leaves will once again be turned into blankets for Somewhere to Go after the tree has been dismantled.

Throughout the weekend there were refreshments on offer including a soup lunch on the Saturday and numerous cakes, mince pies and biscuits along with endless tea and coffee throughout the weekend, and thanks go to a marvellous group of hard-working volunteers who enabled the constant supplies!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the planning and success of this event. A grand total of £1500 was raised.

Jill Preddy

## **St Martin's Choir**

We are a group of people who have made a commitment to help lead the congregation in singing at Services.

We meet every Thursday evening at 6.15pm in Church for practice and we have made a commitment to sing every Sunday morning at the 10.00am Service and once a month on a Sunday evening at 6.00pm for a Sung Evensong Service.

At Christmas 2025 we were joined by some members of the congregation to sing with us for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

We are also available to sing at Church Weddings if requested

Barbara Perkins

## **St Martin's Bell Ringers**

During 2025 we welcomed visiting ringers from Devon and Herefordshire and hosted the Axbridge Branch training morning in February. Our Thursday evening practices have continued throughout the year with members of other local towers joining us on a regular basis. This has enabled us to support and encourage them and our own ringers to progress.

During the autumn a local teenager showed interest in ringing and it has been a joy to teach him to ring with support from the Branch Education Officer. The age of our ringers are now from teenagers to 90+, although most of us are on the older side. As you read this remember it is never too old to learn and it is about technique not strength. `Please come and visit us on a Thursday evening if you would like to discover more about ringing.

As well as ringing for pleasure and enjoyment we also ring for worship, for times of celebration and remembrance. This year we have once again been able to ring for the majority of morning services and for the major Festivals.

During the year we rang ten quarter peals. In May we rang in celebration for the closing service of the Flower Festival weekend. We also rang for the 81st anniversary of D-Day in June and in August to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II.

We began the year by ringing a quarter peal in memory of Sheonagh and Margaret Ormrod. Later in the year quarters were rung to remember former ringers - Bryan Williams of St. John's W-S-M, a good friend to us, and John Widgery of Wick St. Laurence.

During this year two of our ringers died. Barbara Taylor in February and Ray Jones in December.

Barbara came to ringing later in life and began to learn in 2000. She was a faithful member and always supported us in whatever we did, especially on Sundays and social events. Towards the end she was finding ringing more difficult due to arthritic hands but was determined in 2024 to ring a quarter for her 80th birthday.

Ray learnt to ring at St. John's as a teenager and continued to ring as he moved with his chosen profession of nursing. When he and his partner retired they eventually moved back to Weston-super-Mare and Ray became

a loyal member of St. Martin's ringers, eventually becoming ringing master. In this role he enabled, with patience, to teach new ringers and encourage them in their development. He was a well-respected ringer both locally, and within the branch and association.

Several quarter peals, both here and elsewhere were rung in their memory. Barbara and Ray have been and will continue to be missed and we give thanks for their lives and all that they gave to the ringers and to others during their lives through friendship and encouragement.

Finally, and but not least, the ringers continue to be grateful for the support we receive from the Vicar and PCC . Our thanks also go to Jim and Frank who keep a good eye on the bells and hangings to ensure they are safe to ring.

Yvonne Criddle

## **Lunch on the Last Sunday in the Month**

The Church Sunday Lunch occurs on the last Sunday of each month and everyone is welcome to come.

This year we have been on the move as to venue. In the spring we moved, for various reasons, from the Summerhouse to the Ebdon Arms. This venue was good from both parking and it being all on one level. A bonus was that, most months, St. Martin's had sole use of the Function Room which meant we were able to sit together. Unfortunately, over the following months there were several changes of managers which meant that, at times, the meals were not always as good as we expected.

As a result, towards the end of the year we visited the Woolpack, who made us very welcome in the Farm Shop. This move worked well, even though it's not carvery and choice from menu needs to be made in advance, as the meals are all served at the same time and above all it does mean that we spend more time chatting to one another. The staff are helpful and a delight.

Numbers attending have varied from month to month and the average number of attendees is 24.

Yvonne Criddle

## Locking Deanery Synod Report for 2025

Two members of the PCC, together with the Rev Jon Ormrod, sit on the deanery synod, providing the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Our elected representatives are:

- Yvonne Criddle
- Grace Rubery

Synod has met three times during the year at different venues across the area.

Please note that Yvonne and I were unable to attend the first two meetings of the year as they clashed with PCC meetings. However, the outline of events for these meetings were:

- Area Dean's Report,
- Activity -dream of what God's plans are for our community,
- Appointment by the Bishop of Rev Caroline Deakin, vicar of St. Peter's, Milton with Mead Vale as Area Dean
- Election of Debbie Routley as Lay Assistant Dean
- Election of Revds. David Gent, Sam Healey, Andrew Hemmings as DMPG clergy representatives

October Meeting – held at Christ Church, in Weston-super-Mare

The meeting consisted of:

- Area Dean's report.
- A presentation of the Chaplaincy provision at the Magistrates Court
- Deanery Questionnaire. This consisted of a series of questions sent to each parish/benefice in the Deanery. The questions were (with summary of responses in red):

1 Two things that have encouraged you as a parish

**a. Connections with local community.**

**b. Special services to attract different people and a variety of schools, youth and children's work**

2 *Issues that you face:*

**a. Finance.**

**b. Ageing congregations with lack of young families**

**c. Too few people doing all the work**

3 One thing you're working on at the moment:

**a. Mission and Community engagement**

**b. Buildings**

**c. Welcome and Discipleship**

4 One thing the Deanery could help with:

**a. Sharing resources and expertise**

**b. Training**

**c. Parish Share**

5 Two things we could pray for your parish:

a. Growth

b. Unity

Following each meeting the members feedback to the subsequent PCC meeting.

Rev Jon Ormrod

## **Church Cleaning Team**

Cleaning takes place on Friday mornings, or at other suitable times.

Weekly cleaning:

- Toilet cubicles: clean all surfaces and floors; replenish toilet rolls and soap; empty bins
- Kitchen: clean sink and surrounds and shelf on top of the safe
- Vestry: empty bins
- Glass doors: remove any marks
- Vacuuming: all carpets and porch mats
- Porch mats are dried/aired outside when weather is suitable

Monthly cleaning:

- Body of church and gallery: all chairs, pews, choir stalls, organ area, and surfaces are wiped
- Polish: altar rails; shelves of choir stalls; small tables
- Wipe down/clean where necessary: bannisters, glass panels and surrounds on gallery stairs; children's area

6 monthly, to coincide with churchyard cleaning:

- wash wooden floor area and porch mats
- clean vestry shelves
- empty and clean kitchen cupboards and shelves

Any member of the team working on their own in church must adhere to the Lone Working Policy and:

- let someone know where they are
- have a mobile phone with them
- keep the outer door locked

Lesley Faulkner

## St Martin's Church Mission Giving Group



This group was formed to promote the church's activities in mission and outreach, both locally and further afield. The Mission Giving Group, comprising three members of the PCC and one lay member, met three times during the year under review.

Items considered were:

1. The regular gifts given from the church to:
  - a. Sponsor a child (Sergio) through the auspices of Compassion UK
  - b. Support the Bath & Wells Diocesan Link with our connection in the Central Diocese of Zambia. This diocese encompasses the northern part of the country known as the Copperbelt.
2. The success of "bucket collections" that were set up in church in response to local and international emergencies.
3. Working with the other church groups to generate income that can be used for mission and outreach.
4. Brainstorming ideas that might lead to the generation of gifts to help the poor and needy both at home and overseas.

The congregation and community have responded generously to appeals by the church and we can gratefully record the following achievements in 2025:

- The piggy bank for Sergio (sited on the Mission Table in church) continues to be well supported and we were able to make monthly donations to Compassion UK for the sponsorship of Sergio in his schooling. The piggy bank gifts were also sufficient for us to be able to make seasonal gifts for the community in Columbia where Sergio lives.
- Despite an increase in some central costs the PCC felt able to continue to support the Diocesan Link with a small monthly contribution towards its costs. The main emphasis of the Link has always been on building relationships through prayer, correspondence and visits. It has grown and prospered with regular exchange visits by priests, doctors, school staff, students, diocesan staff and members of congregations, all in the furtherance of Christian faith.
- We have continued to work with the local charity Hands of Compassion that supports the education and welfare of children and deprived families in Zambia. The essence of their work is to educate peoples in Zambia so that they might become more self-sufficient.

Over the years St. Martin's has contributed to many projects supported by this charity, and we are proud to have been associated with the provision of education for many hundreds of children within the Central Diocese of Zambia. During 2025 the main motivator in this charity became unwell and we did not release monies to it until she was able to undertake one of her "audit" visits at the end of the year. Following the report from her we were able to release all the donations received for Hands of Compassion in the following financial year.

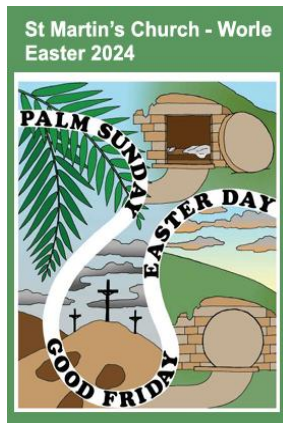
- .As in previous years, during the period of Lent buckets were left in church in which people were invited to put the cash that they saved by forfeiting some of their luxuries during the 40 day period. The collection of £508 was donated to "Somewhere to Go", a local charity supporting the homeless.
- In May 2025 a Garden Party was held at the beginning of Christian Aid week and the monies raised (£154) were passed to that charity.
- Through the generosity of members of the congregation, we have been able to supply the local Foodbank throughout the year with some of the goods that they require.
- In September buckets were placed in church to receive donations for Great Western Air Ambulance in response to their urgent appeal. We were able to send a donation of £231 as a result.
- At our Harvest Festival we commenced support for Hope Christian Trust which is a small charity based nearby that generates monies for charitable work mainly in educational and cultural establishments both in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories for the development of young people and adults. During the conflict in these areas the Trust has managed to get some food parcels to communities of teachers and parents of the schools that it would regularly support. By means of open donations and a raffle we were able to send £407 to this charity.
- The church held another Christmas Tree Festival in December 2025 which was well attended. The donations received from the congregation and the local community were shared equally between the Weston Hospice and St. Martin's Church.
  - Alongside the sponsored trees was a large Christmas Tree which comprised knitted leaves and when disassembled these were stitched together to provide blankets for the Mission for Seafarers.
- Throughout the year both congregations and visitors made contributions to a carboy (which has reduced to a smaller, less obstructive jar) so that loose change could accumulate to enable us to hold a reserve that could be distributed for the welfare of our Zambian brothers and sisters.
- We are very fortunate that three local primary schools continue to have links with St. Martin's Church. During the year a group from church made regular visits to St. Martin's School where they held Messy Church meetings after school. We hope that we might develop outreach further on various projects for the benefit of our community.

The church congregation and the community surrounding St. Martin's have again responded superbly to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate and this has enabled us to report positively again on a year's mission and outreach activities.

Neil Adams

## Magazine Committee

We have "produced" three magazines this year,



- *Easter.*
- *Harvest Festival.*
- *Christmas.*

Each edition starts with a planning meeting, when the broad outline is agreed, with a window of two-three weeks to prepare the material, which is assembled and proofread, before the pages are then sent to the printers.

For our two major print editions, 3,500 copies, the members gather in Church on a Friday morning, to place the magazines into recyclable paper bags for each road. Then the wider Church family takes over and distributes the magazines to every house in the Parish.

We are always looking for new contributions, so please do contact us.

The Church magazine is an important part of our mission, in bringing the Good News to the Parish

Rev Jon Ormrod, John Bangham, Rosie Davies, Barbara Perkins, Margaret Smith, Carol Savill,